



Contact: Roxann Sebest, Director of Marketing and Communications
330.746.8494 or rsebest@ymvunitedway.org

PRESS RELEASE

United Way Earns Highest Rating from Charity Navigator

July 7, 2017

(Youngstown, OH) - The United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley's strong financial health and commitment to accountability and transparency have earned it a 4-star rating from Charity Navigator, America's largest independent charity evaluator. This is the second consecutive time that United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley has earned this top distinction.

"It's important our donors trust that we're using their donations wisely to accomplish our mission to positively impact the lives of children and families in need," said Bob Hannon, President of United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley, "Our 4-star Charity Navigator rating demonstrates to our donors our good governance and financial accountability."

The United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley focuses on Early Education programs and Emergency Services. In 2015, it launched Success After 6, an initiative that focuses on the whole child and whole family. Success After 6 provides wraparound services, including an after-school program, at the Youngstown Community School and Taft Elementary School. It will expand to four additional Youngstown City Elementary Schools as well as Girard Elementary School in 2017-2018. All the money raised during the United Way's Annual Campaign, which will officially kick off on September 1st with the 20th Annual Day of Caring, stays in the Mahoning Valley.

Since 2002, using objective analysis, Charity Navigator has awarded only the most fiscally responsible organizations a 4-star rating. In 2011, Charity Navigator added 17 metrics, focused on governance and ethical practices as well as measures of openness, to its ratings methodology. These Accountability & Transparency metrics, which account for 50 percent of a charity's overall rating, reveal which charities operate in accordance with industry best practices and whether they are open with their donors and stakeholders. On June 1, 2016, Charity Navigator upgraded its methodology for rating each charity's financial health with CN 2.1. These enhancements further substantiates the financial health of the four star charities.

United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley
255 Watt Street Youngstown, OH 44505
www.ymvunitedway.org

LIVE UNITED™

“The United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley's exceptional 4-star rating sets it apart from its peers and demonstrates its trustworthiness to the public,” according to Michael Thatcher, President & CEO of Charity Navigator. “Only a quarter of charities rated by Charity Navigator receive the distinction of our 4-star rating. This adds the United Way of Youngstown to a preeminent group of charities working to overcome our world’s most pressing challenges. Based on its 4-star rating, people can trust that their donations are going to a financially responsible and ethical charity when they decide to support United Way.”

The United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley's rating and other information about charitable giving are available free of charge on www.charitynavigator.org. More-detailed information about United Way's rating is available to Charity Navigator site visitors who become registered users, another free service.

About Charity Navigator

Charity Navigator, www.charitynavigator.org, is the largest charity evaluator in America and its website attracts more visitors than all other charity rating groups combined. The organization helps guide intelligent giving by evaluating the Financial Health and Accountability & Transparency of more than 8,000 charities. Charity Navigator accepts no advertising or donations from the organizations it evaluates, ensuring unbiased evaluations, nor does it charge the public for this trusted data. As a result, Charity Navigator, a 501 (c) (3) public charity itself, depends on support from individuals, corporations and foundations that believe it provides a much-needed service to America's charitable givers. Charity Navigator, can be reached directly by telephone at (201) 818-1288, or by mail at 139 Harristown Road, Suite 101, Glen Rock, N.J., 07452.

About the United Way of Youngstown and the Mahoning Valley

Our United Way's mission is to create positive change by collaborating with partners to educate and empower children and families in the Mahoning Valley. We are evolving from our roots as a fundraiser by narrowing our scope to address specific community-wide problems. Our United Way is developing community-based, collaborative strategies that can drive real change to impact identified community problems. We are aligning our funds, resources, partnerships, and programs around our focus areas of Early Childhood Education and Emergency Services. For more information, please visit www.ymvunitedway.org.